AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of user defined preferred DNS routing, the method comprising:

    mapping for a user in a data communications application a domain name of a network host to a <u>DNS</u> network address for a preferred DNS server, wherein the preferred DNS server has a <u>host</u> network address for the domain name, and wherein mapping a<u>the</u> domain name to a<u>the</u> <u>DNS</u> network address for a<u>the</u> preferred DNS server further comprises receiving from a user a<u>the</u> domain name for a<u>the</u> network host having a<u>the</u> domain name registered on a<u>the</u> preferred DNS server and receiving from the user a<u>the DNS</u> network address for the preferred DNS server;

    receiving from the user a request for access to a resource accessible through the network host; and

    routing to the preferred DNS server a DNS request for the <u>host</u> network address of the network host, the DNS request including the domain name of the network host.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein mapping a domain name to a DNS network address for a preferred DNS server further comprises associating~~storing~~, through the data communication application, an identifier for the user with the domain name ~~in association~~ and with the DNS network address for a preferred DNS server in a table~~data structure~~ in computer memory, the table capable of supporting many-to-many relationships between user identifiers, domain names, and DNS network addresses for preferred DNS servers.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein routing a DNS request for the host network address of the network host is carried out by the data communications application.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein routing a DNS request for the host network address of the network host is carried out by an operating system.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein routing a DNS request for the host network address of the network host is carried out by a predesignated DNS server, wherein a predesignated DNS server is a standard DNS server having a network address that is predesignated as a default operating parameter for the data communications application.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving from the preferred DNS server a DNS response identifying the host network address of the network host; and

accessing the resource through the host network address of the network host.

7.   (Currently Amended) A system for user defined preferred DNS routing, the system comprising:

means for mapping for a user in a data communications application a domain name of a network host to a DNS network address for a preferred DNS server, wherein the preferred DNS server has a host network address for the domain name, and wherein means for mapping a̶the domain name to a̶the DNS network address for a̶the preferred DNS server further comprises means for receiving from a user a̶the domain name for a̶the network host having a̶the domain name registered on a̶the preferred DNS server and means for receiving from the user a̶the DNS network address for the preferred DNS server;

means for receiving from the user a request for access to a resource accessible through the network host; and

means for routing to the preferred DNS server a DNS request for the host network address of the network host, the DNS request including the domain name of the network host.

8.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7 wherein means for mapping a domain name to a DNS network address for a preferred DNS server further comprises means for associatingstoring, through the data communication application, an identifier for the user with the domain name in association and with the DNS network address for a preferred DNS server in a tabledata structure in computer memory, the table capable of supporting many-to-many relationships between user identifiers, domain names, and DNS network addresses for preferred DNS servers.

9.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7 wherein means for routing a DNS request for the host network address of the network host further comprises the data communications application.

10.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7 wherein means for routing a DNS request for the <u>host</u> network address of the network host further comprises an operating system.

11.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7 wherein means for routing a DNS request for the <u>host</u> network address of the network host further comprises a predesignated DNS server, <u>wherein a predesignated DNS server is a standard DNS server having a network address that is predesignated as a default operating parameter for the data communications application.</u>

12.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7 further comprising:

means for receiving from the preferred DNS server a DNS response identifying the <u>host</u> network address of the network host; and

means for accessing the resource through the <u>host</u> network address of the network host.

13.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for user defined preferred DNS routing, the computer program product comprising:

recording medium;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for mapping for a user in a data communications application a domain name of a network host to a <u>DNS</u> network address for a preferred DNS server, wherein the preferred DNS server has a <u>host</u> network address for the domain name, and wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for mapping a<u>the</u> domain name to a<u>the</u> <u>DNS</u> network address for a<u>the</u> preferred DNS server further comprises means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving from a user a<u>the</u> domain name for a<u>the</u> network host having a<u>the</u> domain name registered on a<u>the</u> preferred DNS server and means,

recorded on the recording medium, for receiving from the user a~~the DNS~~ network address for the preferred DNS server;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving from the user a request for access to a resource accessible through the network host; and

means, recorded on the recording medium, for routing to the preferred DNS server a DNS request for the <u>host</u> network address of the network host, the DNS request including the domain name of the network host.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 13 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, mapping a domain name to a <u>DNS</u> network address for a preferred DNS server further comprises means, recorded on the recording medium, for <u>associating</u>~~storing~~, through the data communication application, <u>an identifier for the user with</u> the domain name ~~in association~~ <u>and</u> with the <u>DNS</u> network address for a preferred DNS server in a <u>table</u>~~data structure~~ in computer memory<u>, the table capable of supporting many-to-many relationships between user identifiers, domain names, and DNS network addresses for preferred DNS servers</u>.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 13 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for routing a DNS request for the <u>host</u> network address of the network host further comprises the data communications application.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 13 further comprising:

means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving from the preferred DNS server a DNS response identifying the <u>host</u> network address of the network host; and

means, recorded on the recording medium, for accessing the resource through the
host network address of the network host.